



A Passion to Protect

Protecting this site for future generations required the efforts of many individuals and organizations partnering together. After decades of effort, state, federal, tribal and local governments and agencies, along with scores of advocacy groups and citizens, pulled together to purchase these 62 acres for the people of Oregon in 2007.

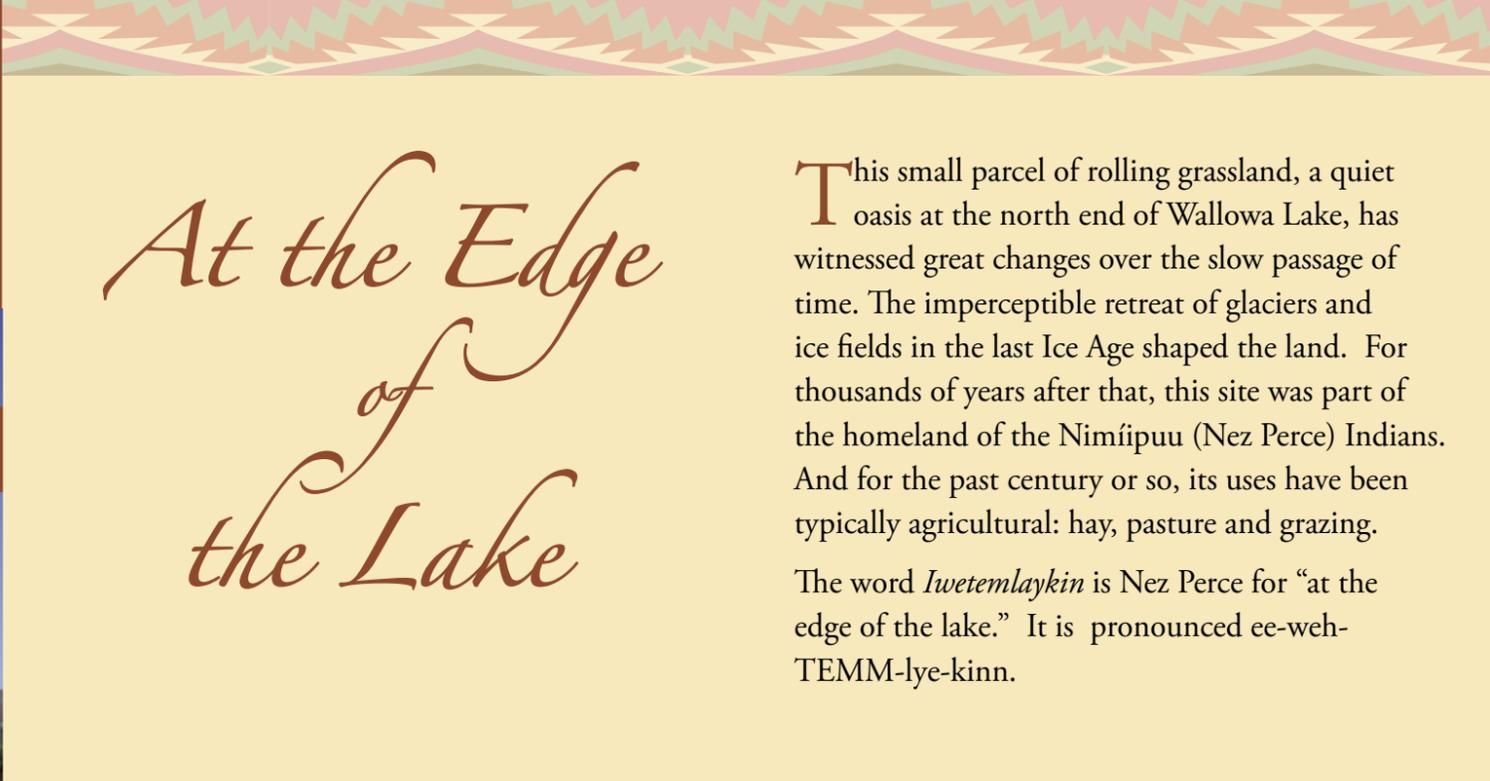
Without assistance from the following groups, Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site would never have come into being:

- The Nez Perce Tribe
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- The Oregon State Parks Trust
- The National Park Service



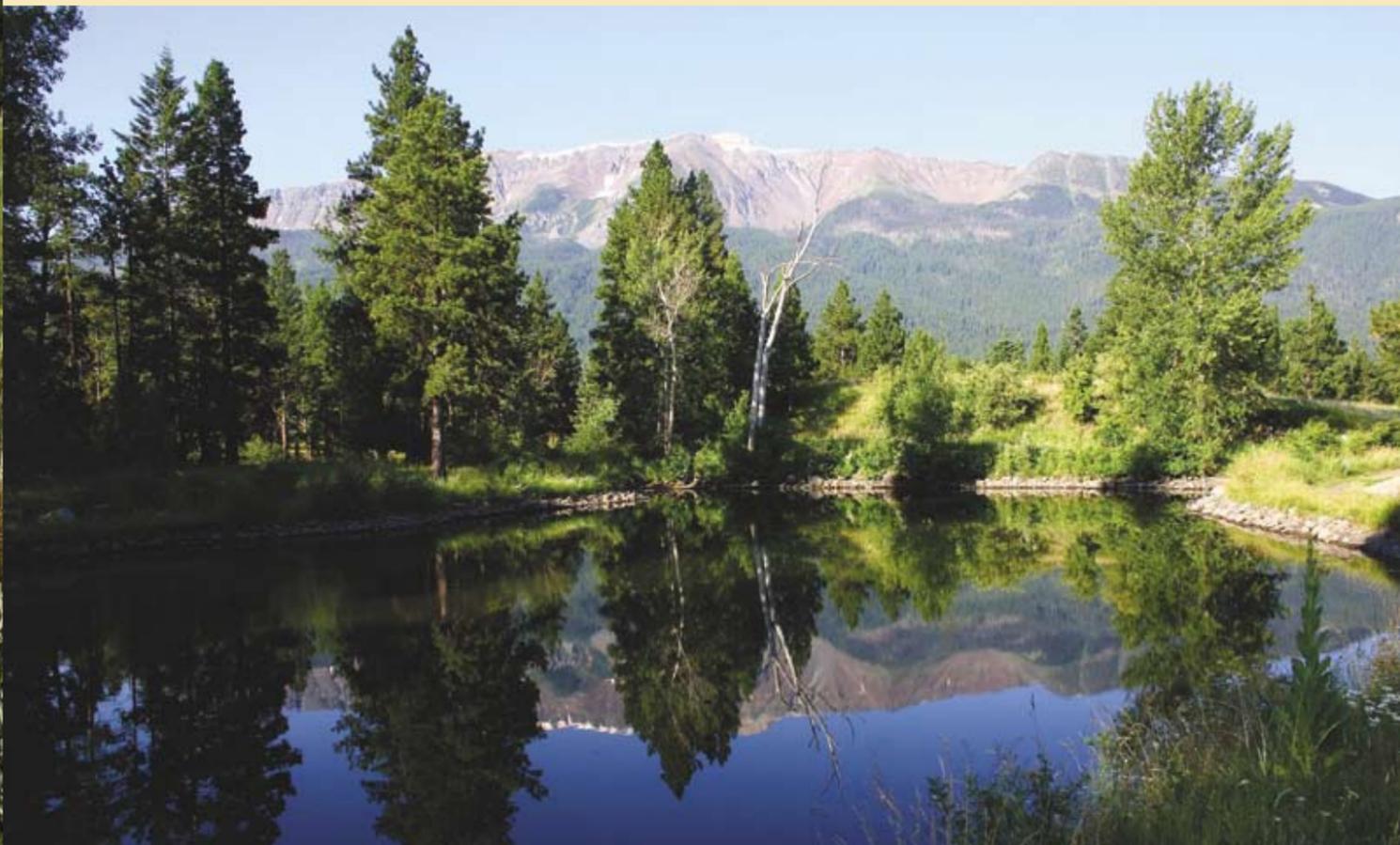
Iwetemlaykin

State Heritage Site



At the Edge of the Lake

This small parcel of rolling grassland, a quiet oasis at the north end of Wallowa Lake, has witnessed great changes over the slow passage of time. The imperceptible retreat of glaciers and ice fields in the last Ice Age shaped the land. For thousands of years after that, this site was part of the homeland of the Nimípuu (Nez Perce) Indians. And for the past century or so, its uses have been typically agricultural: hay, pasture and grazing. The word *Iwetemlaykin* is Nez Perce for “at the edge of the lake.” It is pronounced ee-weh-TEMM-lye-kinn.



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. NE Ste C
Salem, OR 97301
www.oregonstateparks.org



Printed on Recycled Paper

This publication is available in alternative formats on request.
Write to: OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE Ste. C, Salem, OR 97301;
or call (503) 986-0707 (for the hearing impaired, 1-800-735-2900).



The property borders a Nez Perce National Historical Park, site of Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery, to the south. The entire area is a sacred place to peoples of The Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The People and The Land

Iwetemlaykin is situated on a terminal moraine. Moraines are piles of debris deposited by glaciers as they move and melt, and terminal moraines form at the downhill end of glaciers. Wallowa Lake formed in the valley behind the moraines, after the glacier that deposited them retreated.

The steep canyons and jagged, rocky outcrops of the Wallowa Mountains paint a sharp, vivid backdrop to the landscape. But it is more than just a picturesque setting. Its natural abundance—plentiful game, healthy habitat for fish—has provided for its inhabitants for centuries. This place was home to the Nez Perce. Both local tradition and tribal memory confirm that this was once the site of a regionally important sockeye fishery. Then, as now, the land gives back.

In the 19th and 20th century, the land was used for cattle and horse grazing. Eventually, pasture grass was planted, displacing much of the native bunchgrass. The landscape is now a mixture of native and agricultural ground covers, with

Ponderosa Pine, Cottonwood and Douglas-fir trees scattered about. Knight's Pond, fed by Silver Lake Ditch, (one of two irrigation canals on the property), offers a shady respite for hikers.

In 1939, the Marr family acquired the property, and it remained in that family's hands for several generations. They raised Hereford cattle, horses and planted for hay. Many local residents have fond memories of their experiences here when it operated as a ranch.



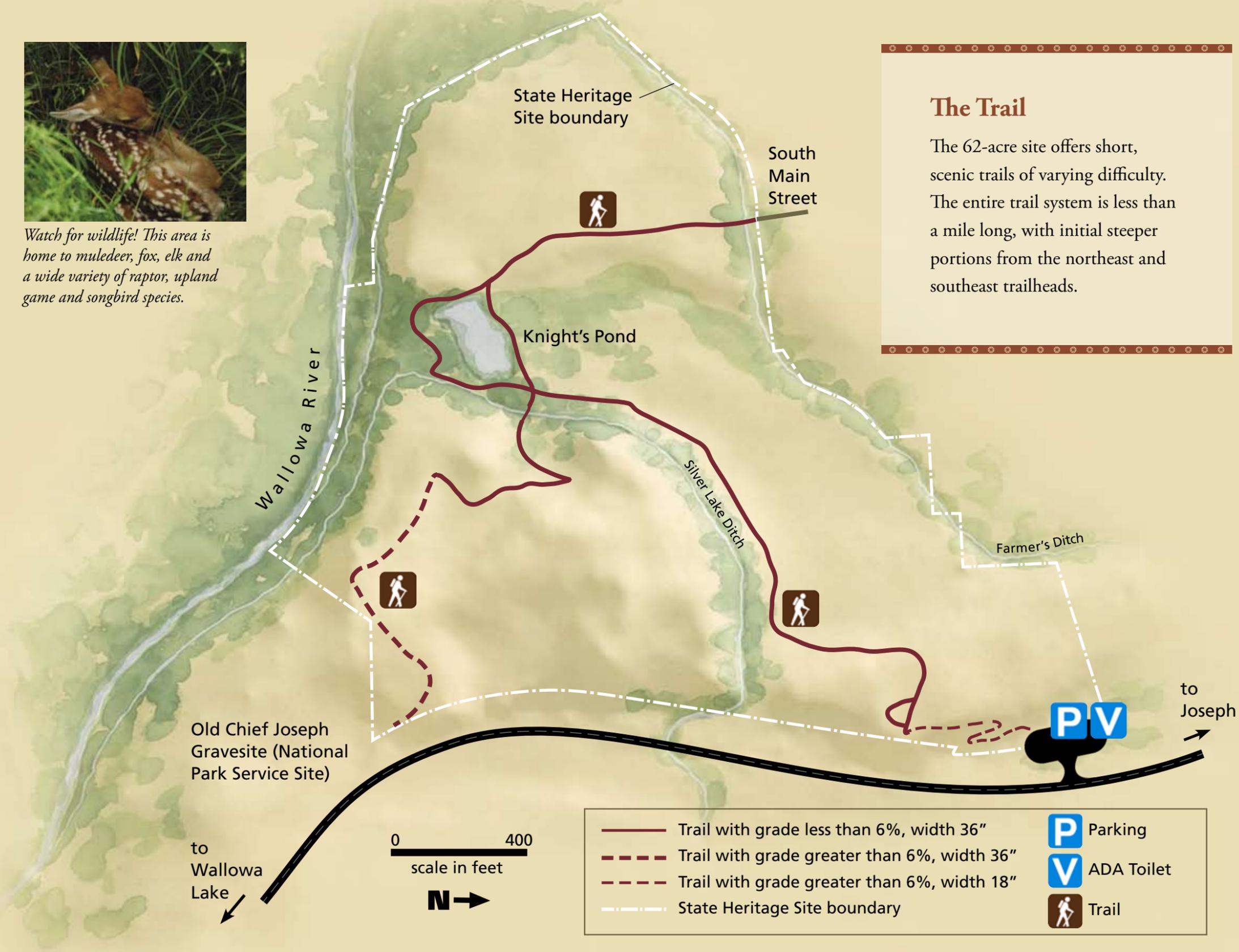
Wildflowers, lupine and rabbitbrush dot the hills in spring and summer.



Sagebrush mariposa lily.



Watch for wildlife! This area is home to muledeer, fox, elk and a wide variety of raptor, upland game and songbird species.



The Trail

The 62-acre site offers short, scenic trails of varying difficulty. The entire trail system is less than a mile long, with initial steeper portions from the northeast and southeast trailheads.